

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03900 100555Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 OES-07 /095 W
-----043706 100601Z/21

P 100510Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9508

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3900

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, EGEN, UNCTAD
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD COMMON FUND
MEETING NOVEMBER 7-DECEMBER 2

REF: (A) STATE 191312, (B) STATE 214220

1. EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN THIS RESPONSE TO REF A. GON HAS EXTREMELY NARROW FOCUS ON SUBJECT ISSUE--I.E. THERE IS ONLY ONE OFFICIAL, NIHENDRA RAJ SHARMA, JOINT SECRETARY OF MIN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, WHO REALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON ISSUES INVOLVED. WE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR HIS RETURN FROM TRADE MISSION ABROAD IN ORDER TO HAVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AS SUGGESTED REF A. SINCE HE STILL OUT OF COUNTRY, FOLLOWING REPRESENTS OUR ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION.
WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH SHARMA AND REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFO.

2. RESPONSES KEYED TO SUBPARA QUERIES PARA 3 REF A.

(A) MAIN GON FOCUS ON COMMON FUND IS, AS NOTED, IN MIN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND IN PERSON OF JOINT SECRETARY SHARMA.
GOVERNMENT OWNED JUTE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADING CORP (JDTC) ALSO HAS ROLE IN THAT JUTE IS KEY COMMODITY FROM GON PERSPECTIVE. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS PERSONNEL SHIFTS IN JDTC, HOWEVER, AND NO CONFIDENTIAL

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INDIVIDUAL STANDS OUT. RE FINAL NEPALESE POSITION IN GENEVA,
PROCESS OF DECISION MAKING HERE IS FUZZY, BUT IT IS OUR BEST
ESTIMATE THAT AUTHORITY WILL REST IN MIN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

(B) YES, DELEGATION (IF ONE IS SENT) WILL INCLUDE--PERHAPS EXCLUSIVELY--PERSONNEL FROM GON IN KATHMANDU. SINCE DELEGATION LIKELY TO CONSIST OF OFFICIALS SUCH AS SHARMA (HE, HIS MINISTER

AND HIS SECRETARY WERE GON DELEGATION IN NAIROBI) DECISION
MAKING AUTHORITY WILL TO LARGE DEGREE ACTUALLY BE
TRANSFERRED TO GENEVA. HENCE QUESTION OF INSTRUCTIONS LARGELY
IRRELEVANT.

(C) WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EXPERTS
FROM US TO COME HERE TO DISCUSS COMMON FUND PRIOR TO GENEVA
MEETING. WHILE NEPAL IS CONCERNED ABOUT JUTE MARKET, ITS
CONCERN IS NARROW AND SPECIALIZED. FOR NEPAL KEY ISSUE IS
GETTING ITS SHARE OF MARKET IN FACE OF DOMINANT SUPPLIERS TO
SOUTH--INDIA AND BANGLADESH. PRICE IS OF COURSE IMPORTANT
BUT STABILITY OF PRICES IS LESS CRITICAL THAN COMPETITION
WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT DISCUSSION BY
EMBASSY OF COMMON FUND WITH GON SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED. WE
FULLY INTEND TO DO SO, BUT BELIEVE SUCH EFFORT SUFFICIENT IN
TERMS OF NEPALESE INTEREST AND LIKELY LIMITED ROLE IN NOVEMBER
DISCUSSIONS.

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